

**PUBLIC SELECTION BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW FOR THE AWARDING OF NO. 5 EXPERIENCED GRANTS FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH PURSUANT TO ART. 22 OF LAW NO. 240/2010 AT THE DEPARTMENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF BERGAMO
PICA CODE 20AR025**

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RESEARCH PROJECT - CODE N. 1

"Poetics of Hospitality in Modern and Contemporary English Literature. Literary, Philosophical and Socio-Cultural Perspectives"

Research structure: Department of Foreign languages, literatures and cultures

Duration of the grant: 12 months

Scientific Area: 10 - Antiquities, philology, literary studies, art history

Academic recruitment field: 10/L1 - English and anglo-american languages, literatures and cultures

Academic discipline: L-LIN/10 - English Literature

Scientific Director: Prof. Flaminia NICORA

Objective

The project focuses on modern and contemporary poetry in the English language (from the Victorian Age to the present) and investigates how the philosophical concept of hospitality (Derrida, Levinas) permeates the poetic text not only as a theme, but also at the textual and contextual level (style, discourse analysis, contexts of production and reception, and so on). A genre which, as proven by recent statistic (The Guardian), is now facing a new and unexpected success among younger generation thanks to social media, poetry triggers reflections on the linguistic and discursive construction of identity and alterity. In this perspective, the different acceptations of the word "hospitality" will be analysed as an interpretative key of the modern age, as well as in a critical/historical perspective. The objective of this epistemological study on the complexity of literature is to investigate how contemporary literary texts reflect, elaborate and redefine the experiences of societies that are currently dealing with societal challenges posed by ever-growing global interdependencies and newly formed cultural and semiotic contexts

Theoretical framework:

Jacques Derrida's and Emmanuel Lévinas's reflection on the concept of "hospitality" are the starting point of this study on the epistemological, ethical and social role of literary knowledge in relation to the "societal challenges" outlined in the Horizon 2000 framework. In the present cultural context, poetry emerges as a genre connected with new forms of sociality. The dissemination of the poetic text through non-conventional media (Internet, Social Media) allows not only for a rediscovery of classic texts in new contexts, but also for new possibilities for expression for writers belonging to ethnical or cultural minorities. In this sense, poetry reveals a new potential for the reflection on social inequalities and for the promotion of new forms of political activism and social solidarity.

Research project description

In the light of the redefinitions of the new horizons of experiences of societies ever more characterized by precarity (migrations, epidemiological crises, climate crises, and so on) the concept of hospitality acquires new meanings and socio-cultural relevance. The Literary text emerges, in this perspective, as a privileged site of observation of the semiotic complexity linked to cultural dynamics triggered by subjects who are ever more aware of the global interdependencies shaping new contexts of meaning. As observed by the linguist Émile Benveniste, the word "host" comes from the Latin hospes, whose root also refers to the word hostis, "enemy". The complex etymological history of the word mirrors the ambiguity and paradoxicality of a concept which entails simultaneously fundamental bonds and duties of solidarity, exchange and brotherhood, and the fear towards those who are "foreign" or "other". As Derrida reminds us in his readings of the Socratic dialogues, the foreigner is someone who may potentially challenge the doxa, contest authority, and threaten the dogmatism of the law. A liminal

character, the foreigner/the Other makes the "Self" aware of the porosity of the domestic space and forces the latter to undertake a path of self-criticism.

In recent years, literary studies such as Rachel Hollander's "Narrative Hospitality in Late Victorian Fiction: Novel Ethics", have dealt with the semiosis of the concept of hospitality at the narratological and textual level. This project aims to expand the discussion on literary hospitality and to discuss how the concept of hospitality permeates different poetic styles and epochs, as for example the Victorian dramatic monologue, Modernist poetry, and the recent phenomenon of Instapoetry. The project aims to investigate how literature not only reflects but also activates processes through which individual and collective subjects relate to a world that is ever more composite, hybrid and transcultural. This study will also discuss the dynamics through which hybrid identities (migrant, post-colonial) take shape within the text with the mediations of multiple "others".

Key words: hospitality, identity, alterity, sociality, poetics, semiotics

Time

The project involves the writing of at least an essay in an edited volume and a journal article, and the participation in international projects and Academic Symposia. It will be organized in three different stages.

A) In the first stage, a rich bibliography and theoretical/methodological premises of the research project will be defined.

B) In the second stage, some fundamental thematic clusters will be addressed also with reference to specific literary texts

C) In the third and last phase the outcomes of the previous phases will be elaborated in the light of a literary theory of subjectivity which takes into consideration the processes of reading and interpreting literary texts.

Expected results

The project is expected to contribute to the discussion on the ethical and social role of literature in relation to contemporary societal challenges and new global interdependencies. It will develop new methodologies of work and research in the field of English literary and cultural studies, as well as in the field of comparative studies.

-From a **METHODOLOGICAL** perspective, the analysis of hospitality as both theme and textual feature (e.g. dialogism, heteroglossia, etc.) will head the discussion towards contemporary ethical and philosophical issues. Besides, the literary text will be examined also in light of its own materiality: what happens to the poetic text when it moves from the written page to a pc or mobile screen (or vice-versa)? What new forms of interactions are triggered? The project thus combines literary studies and digital humanities.

-From a **CRITICAL-HISTORICAL** point of view, the project will deal with issues of memory, identity and tolerance in order to gain a better understanding of new cultural developments in the European and global context (Horizon 2020). The project aims to expand the contemporary reflection on the topics of identity/alterity and to discuss how literature (more specifically poetry) may contribute to the comprehension of new cultural phenomena, develop social awareness and cohesion, and may help to foster diversity

-From a **PRAGMATIC-COMMUNICATIVE** perspective, this project will present the scientific community with a study on contemporary trends in literary and critical production. It will elaborate methodological tools which could be integrated in innovative didactic proposal (both in academic and non-academic contexts) based on contemporary literature and culture.

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RESEARCH PROJECT - CODE N. 2

“The economic dependence of companies in the modern market context: abuse and organizational structure of group companies”

Research structure: Department of Law

Duration of the grant: 24 months

Scientific Area: 12 – Law studies

Academic recruitment field: 12/B1 – Business law

Academic discipline: IUS/04 – Business law

Scientific Director: Prof. Vincenzo DE STASIO

In our global economics, specialized and fragmented production processes require the integration of organizational structures of enterprises and it is increasingly frequent to use alternative forms instead of those based on controlling share and on commercial agreements (i.e. franchising, subcontracting). Even if this trend has undeniable advantages, it can lead to jeopardize the profitability and organizational efficiency of companies, by allocating all business risks to the subsidiaries and undermining the competitiveness of the entire economic system.

A first action is due to art. 9 L. 192/1998. This provision regulates the abusive exercise of the economic power guaranteed to parent companies through the contractual obligations imposed on other subsidiaries. The abuse of the state of dependence is now prohibited and, according to several interpreters, this rule is to be considered a general one in business relations. However, its effects have been studied so far considering only the contractual relationship and therefore giving significance to the so-called third contract (“B2B”) according to an atomistic point of view.

On the other hand, this phenomenon has to be seen in relation to the organizational structures of enterprises that are connected by contractual ties and in relation to the need of safeguarding their permanence in the market. Only in this way it is possible to give relevance to those conducts of parent companies that have the effect of producing for subsidiaries long term inefficient and unsustainable production processes, as well as determining an unjustified competitive advantage for parent companies, even if these conducts are not an abuse in the contractual relationship. Studies on economic dependence carried out from the perspective of competition law are well known. However, these studies have limited their investigations on the difference between the economic dependence and the abuse of a dominant position or vertical agreements without any consideration for productive processes.

The enacted of paragraph 2 of art. 2086 c.c. (D.lgs. 14/2019) has confirmed that our legal system is moving in this direction, which requires from the entrepreneur the adoption of an organizational structure which is appropriate to the nature and size of his business, therefore imposing precise constraints on the way production processes are organized.

The research project aims at clarifying what restrictions parent companies meet in the organization of their business in order to take account of entrepreneurial interests of subsidiaries.

The investigation will start considering that contractual constraints causing economic dependence are the basis of the so-called external control among companies (art. 2359, par. 1, n. 3), thus highlighting rules provided for groups of companies. Therefore, in the mentioned market context, the research will analyze all implications that rules for groups of companies can have on the contractual powers assigned to the dominant company. Firstly, it is going to study the consequences deriving from the duty that parent companies have to respect the rule of correct management of subsidiaries. Secondly, it will be necessary to verify if remedies referred to in art. 9, L. 192/1998 may affect the organization of company groups.

As to the timetable, it is expected that the first 6 months will be dedicated to the study of the Italian legal literature on these issues; during the next 6 months, the research will proceed with comparative analyses among the main European regulations; in the last 12 months, the illustrative essays of the results will be reported in 2 articles or in 1 monograph.

RESEARCH PROJECT - CODE N. 3

"QuAMeSS - Quality assurance of medical software systems"

Research structure: Department of Management, information and production engineering

Duration of the grant: 24 months

Scientific Area: 09 - Industrial and information engineering

Academic recruitment field: 09/H1 - Information processing systems

Academic discipline: ING-INF/05 - Information processing systems

Scientific Director: Prof. Angelo GARGANTINI

The QuAMeSS (Quality assurance of medical software systems) project aims to study methodologies for quality assurance of medical software systems.

QuAMeSS will develop in two integrated research lines.

The first will try to investigate how the use of rigorous methods based on logic and mathematics (formal methods) can be integrated into the medical software process in order to guarantee those desired safety properties. The use of formal methods is known in the literature and also recommended by the standards and guidelines for the development of medical software. These methodologies have the advantage of providing an objective and verifiable sw quality certification also by third parties. However, the cost of using these techniques makes their application not very widespread. Sometimes the lack of automatic support tools and the lack of training constitute a barrier to their diffusion. With this project we want to study possible actions that encourage the use of these methodologies in the industrial field.

The second line of research concerns the definition of methodologies for the quality assurance of machine learning algorithms (ML) (automatic learning) in the medical field. In fact, it is known that these algorithms can be subject to "adversarial examples" (antagonistic examples): data with changes imperceptible to humans confuse these systems leading to incorrect outputs (for example in the classification of carcinomas causing incorrect diagnoses). Starting from some of our preliminary works, we want to investigate robustness and reliability measures of ML algorithms and techniques to improve these qualities.

RESEARCH PROJECT - CODE N. 4

"Eco-design methods for LCa, energy efficiency, and circular economy"

Research structure: Department of Management, information and production engineering

Duration of the grant: 12 months

Scientific Area: 09 - Industrial and information engineering

Academic recruitment field: 09/A3 - Industrial design, machine construction and metallurgy

Academic discipline: ING-IND/15 - Design methods for industrial engineering

Scientific Director: Prof. Davide RUSSO

Development of strategies and tools for the mapping of environmental impacts, and the resolution of technical problems related to energy efficiency and waste management and recycling (circular economy) through the use of tools for systematic innovation and tools for the management of industrial property.

RESEARCH PROJECT - CODE N. 5

"Edition and analysis of toll registers for the study of late-medieval trade in northern Italy"

Research structure: Department of Letters, philosophy, communication

Duration of the grant: 12 months

Scientific Area: 11 - History, philosophy, pedagogy and psychology

Academic recruitment field: 11/A1 - Medieval history; 11/A4 - Science of books and documents, history of religions

Academic discipline: M-STO/01 - Medieval history; M-STO/09 - Paleography

Scientific Director: Prof. Riccardo RAO

The research project is focused on the study of the documentary sources concerning late medieval toll taxation in northern Italy (tariffs and accountable documentation), especially for the Lombard area. The project goal is a wide-range reconstruction of the typology and provenances of the commodities circulating in Lombardy between the 13th and the 15th century, as well as a study on the impact of toll taxation on their commercial price. The researcher will carry out a preliminary archival and bibliographical investigation on the surviving sources on toll imposition within the chosen chronological and territorial limits; the edition of unpublished sources; the digital encoding of published and unpublished texts; the insertion of the metadata related to the typology and provenance of the commodities in an online database; a reflection on the synthesis data brought to light by the study of the documentary sources.

A proven knowledge of the script, language and structure of the Lombard late medieval documentary texts is needed, as well as an equally proven knowledge of the main archival institutions of that region and the familiarity with databases and other digital tools for the study of medieval sources.

A monthly activity report, accompanied by transcriptions and analysis of sources, will be required.